

a.) Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled).

42. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a lubricated tablet, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule bearing a coating film;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule and a diluting agent, said molding material containing no lubricant;

selecting a tabletting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches, said die and pair of punches being lubricated;

operating said lubricated die and pair of punches to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material, wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

43. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42, wherein said lubricated die and pair of punches are prepared by the steps comprising:

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and

spraying lubricant onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a lubricated tablet, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule being in a base matrix which is a water-insoluble or hydrophobic high molecular material;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule and a diluting agent, said molding material containing no lubricant;

selecting a tabletting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches, said die and pair of punches being lubricated;

operating said tabletting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material, wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 44, wherein said lubricated die and pair of punches are prepared by the steps comprising:

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and

spraying lubricant onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 42 to 45, wherein said diluting agent is granular.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film enhances release in intestine.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film prevents bitter taste.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film enhances sustained release.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix enhances release in intestine.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix prevents bitter taste.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix enhances sustained release.

53. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to any one of claims 42-45.

54. (Previously Presented) A tablet with lubricant, comprising:  
a compressed mixture of (i) a granule containing an active substance and bearing a coating film with (ii) a diluting agent, said compressed mixture containing no lubricant, wherein

said granule bearing a coating film is intact and said lubricant is provided only on the surface of said tablet and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

55. (Previously Presented) A tablet with lubricant, comprising:

a compressed mixture of (i) a granule containing an active substance and (ii) a diluting agent, said compressed mixture containing no lubricant and said granule comprising a base matrix which is a water-insoluble or hydrophobic high molecular material, wherein

said granule is intact and said lubricant is provided only on the surface of said tablet and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

56. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 54 or 55, wherein said diluting agent is granular.

57. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 54, wherein said coating film enhances release in intestine.

58. (Currently Amended) The method tablet according to claim 54, wherein said coating film prevents bitter taste.

59. (Currently Amended) The method tablet according to claim 54, wherein said coating film enhances sustained release.

60. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 55, wherein said base matrix enhances release in intestine.

61. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ tablet according to claim 55, wherein said base matrix prevents bitter taste.

62. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ tablet according to claim 55, wherein said base matrix enhances sustained release.

63. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining a function of a compressed tablet, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule bearing a coating film;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with a diluting agent, said molding material containing no lubricant;

selecting a tabletting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches, said die and pair of punches being lubricated;

operating said tabletting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material, wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

64. (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining a function of a compressed tablet, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule comprising a base matrix which is a water-insoluble or hydrophobic high molecular material;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with a diluting agent, said molding material containing no lubricant;

selecting a tabletting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches, said die and pair of punches being lubricated;

operating said tabletting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material, wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

65. (Currently Amended) The tablet method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film enhances release in intestine.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film prevents bitter taste.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film enhances sustained release.

68. (Currently Amended) The ~~tablet~~ method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix enhances release in intestine.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix prevents bitter taste.

70. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix enhances sustained release.

71. (New) The method according to any one of claims 42-45 or 63-70, wherein said molding material is tabletted at a pressure of at most 1 ton/cm<sup>2</sup>.